

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters Ñ but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy Ñ a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system Ñ ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Having just watched the film "Outfoxed", I am shocked and disgusted to learn that Rupert Murdoch owns enough outlets to reach over 4 BILLION people -- over half the people on earth. And he is clearly not burdened by any conscience or any sense of civic or journalistic duty. What possible duty could you have whatsoever, if it does not include reining in this kind of excess? I pray that you know what has to be done, and that you will do it.